

## Prayers Of The People

### The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

### And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

### Doxology

### Great Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

### And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

### We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

### Communion

pages 496 and 497

### Prayer After Communion

**God of mercy, God of grace, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. Fill us with your Spirit, and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Community Sharing

### Offering

**Hymn Of Response      We Give Thee But Thine Own      360**

**Hymn Of Dismissal    God Wills A Full Life For Us All    URW 134**

### Dismissal With Blessing

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Next Week's Readings:** 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Preaching This Week:** Tori Paulin

**Preaching Next Week:** Ruth Huston

## St. Paul's Free Methodist Church Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

**Call To Worship    Christians, We Have Met To Worship    Insert**

### Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Hymn Of Praise      Creating God, Your Fingers Trace    URW 67**

### Prayer

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### First Lesson

*Genesis 28:10-19a*

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm*

*Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24*

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. ... Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Hymn                      O The Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus                      378

*Second Lesson                      Romans 8:12-25*

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is

seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation                      Alleluia                      URW 402

*Gospel                      Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

**R:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" ... Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

**R:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

### **THEOLOGY OF PREACHING AT ST. PAUL'S**

St. Paul's submits to the authority of Christian Scripture. We preach from the lectionary, which means we attend to the full witness of the Bible. In our preaching, we practice a "rotating pulpit" approach because we believe diverse Christian perspectives and voices are gifts from God. In hearing God's word preached by pastors and lay people, students and professors, old and young, women and men, we become the people of God. We celebrate the ways in which the Holy Spirit challenges, comforts, surprises, confronts, and embraces us through the sermon. Our faithful response to what God is saying to us requires honesty, humility, and courage. Even in our human and feeble efforts to speak on God's behalf, God proves faithful in addressing us, helping us become the reconciled and restored people of God in our time and place.

### **GODLY PLAY PAUSES FOR THE SUMMER**

Our Godly Play volunteers are taking a well-deserved break for the summer. **Godly Play for children ages 3+ will resume** in the fall.

### **ADULT AND YOUTH SS PAUSE ALSO**

Our **Youth and Adult/College Sunday School** classes are also taking a summer break. Stay tuned for information on the fall schedule.

### **BAKER WANTED**

Might you be interested in **baking fresh bread regularly for our Sunday Communion**? Please contact Judy at [stpaulsfmc@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsfmc@gmail.com) for information (and recipes).

### **HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN BOND CO.**

Right now our local food pantry urgently needs **soups, canned pasta meals, macaroni-n-cheese, and peanut butter and jelly**. Please place your donations of food (or toiletries) in the **box** in the mural room.

### **READING LINK PROGRAM "REBOOTS"**

Would you be interested in **volunteering as a reading tutor 2 hours a week**, to help adults (17 and older) learn to read or improve their existing skills? Kaskaskia College's Reading Link program offers **free training** and the opportunity to give back to our community. For more information please call The Reading Link either at 1-800-642-0853 Ext. 3115 or 545-3119.

### **OPT IN TO "REMIND" NOTIFICATIONS**

To receive one-way notifications from St. Paul's (**potluck** reminders, weather closings, etc.), you must opt in by one of two methods; you may **text the message @eb9aa** to the number **81010**, OR you may send an **e-mail** to **eb9aa@mail.remind.com** (leaving both subject line and body of e-mail blank).

### **MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES**

Join us in the sanctuary **Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00am** for prayer, Scripture and Communion.

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE AND ONLINE DIRECTORY

Thanks to the professional and pro bono work of **Meg File**, we have a new website! Take a look at yourselves at:

**stpaulsfmc.org**

Our desire with this new site is to strengthen our sense of community with better communication and resources. At this new domain name (also thanks to Meg) we have **mobile-friendly** access, complete with **church calendar**, online **announcements**, and many more upgrades. Browse around—we think you'll like what you see!

And while you're browsing, please help us populate our new **online church directory**, currently under construction. Note on the homepage, at the top right, the heading **MORE...**; when you hover over it, a box labeled **Congregation Area** pops up. (On your phone, Congregation Area is the last of the menu options.) Click on that, and you'll be prompted to enter our password, which is: **stpfamily**

This password gives you access to the **St. Paul's Private Congregation Area**. Clicking on the **Directory Survey** button (inside the box in the upper left corner entitled **New Church Online Directory**, or first item on your phone) will take you to a simple form to fill out, in as much detail as you choose. (The only required information is your name and preferred mode of contact.) **This directory information WILL NOT be publicly available** on the church's new website, **but will remain password-protected in the Congregation (only) Area**. Please complete this survey for EACH family member separately, including children.

Making this a photo directory will help us all put names with faces! So please, when you've filled out your form(s), **email photo(s) of each family member** to us at **stpaulsfmc@gmail.com** or **file.meg@gmail.com**

If you'd rather **submit your directory information on a paper form**, please contact Pastor Judy at (618)514-7457, or **stpaulsfmc@gmail.com**

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

## 277 Christians, We Have Met to Worship

1. Chris-tians, we have met to wor-ship and a-dore the liv-ing God;  
2. Is there here a trem-bling jail-er, seek-ing grace and filled with fears?  
3. Let us love our God su-preme-ly, let us love each oth-er, too;

will you pray with all your pow-er, while we try to preach the Word?  
Is there here a weep-ing Mar-y pour-ing forth a flood of tears?  
let us pray for all earth's peo-ple till our God makes all things new.

All is vain un-less the Spir-it of the Ho-ly One comes down;  
Tell them all a-bout the Sav-ior, how in Christ the lost are found.  
Christ will call us home to heav-en, at the ta-ble we'll sit down;

Chris-tians, pray, and ho-ly man-na will be show-ered all a-round.  
Pray, oh pray, and ho-ly man-na will be scat-tered all a-round.  
Christ will wel-come us and serve us liv-ing man-na all a-round.

WORDS: Attr. George Atkins (19th century); alt.  
MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

HOLY MANNA  
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